

A

## CLERGY-MAN

OF THE

## Church of England

*Vindication* of Himself for Reading His Majesties  
Late DECLARATION.

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With Allowance.

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Ho' my Averseness from *all appearance* of Opposition to Our Most Reverend *Metropolitan*, and the Reverend *Bishop* of this *Diocese* made me Resolve (as I acquainted a Learned man in Answer to a Letter I lately received from him) that I would not Publish any thing upon this Great Controversy; yet upon *Second Thoughts* of My Duty to Our Gracious Sovereign, and the Regard I ought to have to My own Reputation in reference to that Apostolical Injunction, *Let no man Despise* I now Resolve to make known to the World what Reasons I had to the DECLARATION.

I receiv'd it from the hands of the *Treasurer-Apparitor*, without the Least Scruple but that it came from my Lord *Bishop of Exeter*: I read it the Sunday after I receiv'd it. The *Saturday* following I receiv'd a Letter from the *Apparitor*, acquainting me that it was my Lord *Bishop's* Pleasure that I should not Read the DECLARATION. Since that time I have often said that I shall not make the least scruple to Read it again, if I shall receive Order so to do from the KING, or the *Bishops*: And yet amongst a multitude of the Foulest Calumnies imaginable that have been rais'd against me upon this Occasion, this is one, that I am so vext and disquieted in mind for having read this DECLARATION that I am like to be quite Distracted through Anguish that ever I did such a thing. This is so Prodigious a Lye, that GOD is my Witness I never had the least Inclination to Repent of it. I have written to several Learned men of the *Church of England*, that in a more Desire to keep a Conscience void of Offence both towards GOD, and towards Men, I resolv'd to submit to this Order, upon these, and the following Considerations, "That Our Soyereign Lord the King, has a Right to declare or make known his Mind as to any Matter whatsoever, to every one of his Subjects: And Consequently that he has a Right to Constrain *Priests* and *Deacons* to be his Instruments to make his Mind known by reading any DECLARATION, &c. I was prompted to these thoughts by my Remembrance of those words of St. *Gregory*, which I took special notice of Twenty years since.

St.

St. Greg. Registr. L. 2. Ep 62.

Greg.—Gregorius Mauricio Augusto.

Ego quidem Jussioni Subjectus, eandem Legem per diversas terrarum  
transmitti feci, & quia Lex ipsa Omnipotenti Deo minime concordat, ecce per  
gestionis mea paginam serenissimis Dominis nunciaui Utrobig; ergo quæ  
exolui, qui & Imperatori Obedientiam præbui, & pro Deo quoa sensi minime

Since I am subject to Your Command, I caus'd the Law (you had sent me  
be dispers'd through diverse parts of the World; and, because the Law it self  
so agreeable to the Will of Almighty God, behold I have declar'd the same by  
Paper which suggests my Reasons. And by doing so, I have in both regards per  
Duty I ow'd; while I both perform my Obedience to the Emperour, and  
known my sentiments in relation to God.

I suppose all the Learned Clergy of the Church of England know w  
saying this is: If the Exemption from Obedience be not as Exem  
the Command to Obey, it must needs be Sin not to Obey. This I  
fastly Believe; and therefore I am Resolv'd by the Help of God to do  
thing that His Majesty shall Command Me, unless I find it to be of  
nature, that I shall be ready to Declare to His Majesty and All the W  
that I am so Confident that the performance of such an Action wou  
Contrary to the Law of God, Declar'd in the Holy Scriptures, or to  
Law of the Land, or to some Canon or Constitution Ecclesiastical, that I  
be ready to lay down my Life in Testimony that my refusing to do  
the King Commands is not in Disobedience to Him, but in True  
ence to the King of Kings: And with this Resolution I Pity all m  
mies; and I Desire my Friends not to be Troubled when they hear M  
Bitterly Censur'd, and Revil'd: but, to Consider that some of the Rep  
that are Dayly cast upon Me make Me expreisly Conformable to  
ferings of Our Blessed LORD, of whom it was said: He hath a Dev  
is MAD, why hear ye him?

Edmund Ellis, Rector of  
East-Alling in Devon.



FINIS.

LONDON

Printed, and Publish'd by Randal Taylor, near Stationers-Hall.